

ETAINIA SPHENDAMNI HERING AND OTHER ACER-FEEDING NEPTICULIDS AT BLACKHEATH.—The above-named species seems to be one of the lesser known 'neps' in Britain; I am aware only of the original discovery at Bexley, Kent, by the late L. T. Ford (information obligingly furnished by Mr Jacobs who possesses two of the specimens, taken in June 1945), so a further record may not come amiss even though it does not appreciably extend the known distribution. My pair came to m.v. light here in 1959 (♂ 19.vii, ♀ 6.viii); the species was kindly determined for me by Dr J. D. Bradley of the British Museum. The ♀ is fully 8 mm. in expanse, decidedly large and conspicuous for a member of this family. The species is close to *E. sericopeza* Zell. but appears to differ significantly in the position of the two outer pale spots of the fore wings: in *sericopeza* they are said to be opposite each other (Meyrick, 1895), whereas in my *sphendamni* that on the dorsum or tornus is well beyond (posterior to) the costal one.

Ford (1949, *Guide Smaller Brit. Lep.*: 203-4) indicates the same life-history for these two species, implying that the foodplant of *E. sphendamni* is field maple (*Acer campestre*). As, however, that tree seems absent from my district—unless still to be found in Greenwich Park—it is very possible that the insect here utilizes either Norway maple (*A. platanoides*) or sycamore (*A. pseudoplatanus*)—both present in and near my garden, the latter only too ubiquitously so! From the apparent rarity of the moth, I rather suspect the far less abundant and more maple-like *platanoides* as the local host of *sphendamni*. These seed-or seed-wing-feeding Nepticulids on *Acer* are more difficult than others to find as larvae. Another of them, *E. decentella* H.-S., occurs here regularly and far from uncommonly at light, and has been seen also on sycamore trunks. Though conspicuous and easily recognized, it has seldom been recorded since its discovery in the Bournemouth district in 1933; but probably it is now widespread in southern England, or at least around London, as it occurs also in the Carshalton area of N.E. Surrey (D. Collins, first noted 1955). Finally I may mention that the mines of *Nepticula speciosa* Frey, another little-recorded species with us, have in the last 10 or 12 years appeared sparingly in the leaves of sycamore saplings in my garden; their identity was kindly confirmed by Mr S. C. S. Brown. Most of those found are empty, or the larva proves to be parasitized; and from the rather varied dates on which tenanted ones have been found, I am inclined to agree with Lt.-Col. Emmet (*antea*: 78) regarding the probable bivoltinism of the species here (but see also 288).—A. A. ALLEN, 63 Blackheath Park, S.E.3. 29.x.71.

NEPTICULID COCOONS: AN UNUSUAL COLORATION? — Mr Chalmers-Hunt's note (*antea*: 26) on a tendency to gregariousness of these cocoons in captivity—which to some extent I can confirm—reminds me of an observation made over ten years ago when breeding out Nepticulids from mines gathered